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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07
L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02
USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 FRB-03 NSC-05 /094 W
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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7687
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 11802

BRUSSELS ALSO USEEC
BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: CSCE, NATO, AU, ECE, EWWT, ENRG
SUBJECT: ECONADS: NOVEMBER 24 DISCUSSION OF CSCE
BASKET II

REF: BELGRADE 7868(NOTAL)

1. UK REP BRIEFED ECONADS ON NOVEMBER 18 BILATERAL
BETWEEN UK AND AUSTRIAN BELGRADE DELS ON AUSTRIAN
PROPOSAL FOR COOPERATION ON ENERGY SECTOR (CSCE/B/3 - NOT
AVAILABLE HERE BUT, PER REFTEL, POUCHED DEPARTMENT).
ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRIANS THEIR PROPOSAL DID NOT
REQUIRE A HIGH LEVEL MEETING (AS SOUGHT BY THE SOVIETS)
BUT WAS INTENDED PRIMARILY TO STIMULATE EUROPEAN
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD. NOTING THE PRESENT
WIDELY VARYING ESTIMATES OF SOVIET ENERGY RESERVES
THEY BELIEVED IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HOLD AN EXPERT
GROUP MEETING UNDER ECE AUSPICES TO ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP
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A COMMON DATA BASES FROM WHICH A EUROPEAN ENERGY BALANCE
COULD BE DRAWN UP. THE THIRTY SECOND ECE SESSION COULD
DECIDE ON THE TIMING, BUT THE AUSTRIANS HOPED THAT THE
EXPERT MEETING COULD COME ABOUT THE END OF 1978.
THE AUSTRIANS REPORTED THAT THEY HAD ALSO HAD BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATION, WHICH CONSIDERED
THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS "A USEFUL FIRST STEP"

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BUT THAT THEY DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH.
THE UK NOW SEES THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL AS MORE LIMITED
AND CONCRETE THAN ORIGINALLY BELEIVED.

2. SPEAKING IN PRESIDENCY CAPACITY, BELGIAN REP
BRIEFED ECONADS ON EC-9 STANDPOINT. THEY FELT THE
AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL STILL WENT FURTHER THAN THEY (THE 9)
WERE NOW (RPT NOW) PREPARED TO GO AND CONSIDERED THAT
FOR TACTICAL REASONS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST IF THE AUS-
TRIAN PROPOSAL HAD BEEN CIRCULATED LATER (NOMINALLY
AS A COMPROMISE) RATHER THAN EARLIER. THE EAST
MIGHT NOW SEEK TO USE THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL AS
A BASE UPON WHICH TO BUILD, RATHER THAN SEE IT AS
A LIMIT BEYOND WHICH WESTERN DELEGATIONS WERE UNLIKELY
TO GO. THEY FELT THE FINAL TEXT OF THE PROPOSAL
SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO FIX A DATE FOR AN EXPERT MEETING:
THIS SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE ECE. HOWEVER, THEY FELT
AN ENERGY MEETING AT EXPERT LEVEL SHOULD COME SOMETIME
AFTER THE PROPOSED HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

3. ON THE AUSTRIAN INLAND WATERWAY PLAN
(CSCE/BM/4 - ALSO POUCHED DEPT PER REFTEL) PROPOSAL,
THE BELGIAN REP SAID THE EC COMMISSION SUPPORTED THE
RHINE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT IN RECOMMENDING TO THE
NINE THAT EC DELS IN BELGRADE ACCEPT THE PORTION
OF THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL CALLING FOR EXPERT LEVEL
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MEETINGS BUT OPPOSE THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF A "EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY
POLICY." THE GERMAN REP REITERATED THE FRG INTENTION
TO TREAT THE RHINE-MAIN-DANUBE CANAL AS A NATIONAL
WATERWAY RATHER THAN AN INTERNATIONAL ONE. GLITMAN

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